

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

3 MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS
DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING—WELL—DO IT AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

Robert J. Willingham
THE death Sunday of Rev. Dr. Robert J. Willingham removes from the activity he loved and the usefulness he constantly attained a figure conspicuous in the religious life of the city and of the whole South. He was a member of the church militant—devoutly determined to plant the standard of Christianity in every non-Christian land. He gave his life to this idea. As general secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, he had the opportunities he sought to heed the divine mandate. So far as he could, through the missions he established and the missionaries he directed, he did preach the Gospel to every living creature. Stalwart, vigorous mentally and physically, essentially masculine, he was a natural leader of men. Humanity is poorer and the world sadder that this big-brained and big-hearted Christian soldier has passed from earth.

What's the Matter With K. C.?
THERE is cause for congratulation in the fact that the wild and woolly West is not permitting the sneaking gunmen of New York to steal all the dime-novel thunder of the present disturbed age. The other day two gentlemen engaged in the occupation of assimilating other people's things, raided a jewelry store. Kansas City police got right on the job, and, after a running fusillade for ten blocks, scattering enough lead to make all the rest of Kansas City duck delightedly, captured the raiders. Frequently there comes a time when the cities of the West have to toe the scratch with a sensation, and they have never been found lacking. The other day a Texas gentleman, shooting at an invader of his domestic castle, killed the invader and a bystander and wounded three innocent citizens. Not many days ago Wyoming furnished a reasonably thrilling one-man train robbery. So lately that it's news, Oklahoma contributed a family feud that checked out three members of the vendetta. There's no sense in permitting the effete East to get puffed up about its gunmen. They're a gumshoe lot, pale-faced and low-brow. What this country ought to pride itself on is the real article, and Kansas City deserves a plaster of Paris monument.

A Melancholy Prophet
POULTNEY BIGELOW, author and traveler, has given expression in an interview to a deadly fear of German invasion that somewhat reminds one of the terror with which Hobson and others of the Yellow Peril cult not long ago warned this country against the Japanese. Hobson may be right, and the peril may be not far off; Bigelow may be right, and the peril may be immediately at hand. They both may be wrong. Says Mr. Bigelow:

I look for German aggression on the American Continent the moment a favorable opportunity offers, and, naturally, I feel that every American lad should regard the rifle and knapsack as part of his school equipment no less than books and pens.

There are those who see in Colonel Goethals' anxiety in the Canal Zone a feeling of uncertainty as to Germany's willingness to respect neutrality in that quarter, in which there is a heavy German interest. There will be, as there must be, a persistent query as to where the warring nations will get their war supplies after their own available resources have been exhausted. The possibility has even been suggested that England might use Canadian troops to seize supplies from over our border.

All these things are natural, and, in so far as the fears of well-informed men furnish any ground of common belief, they should be regarded with respect. But we cannot believe, at this time, that any warring nation has its eyes on aggression in this direction.

Carelessness in Elevator Operation
THE tragic death in an elevator accident at Lynchburg a few days ago of Captain Charles L. Adams, former consul to Cadiz, draws attention to the necessity of care and skill in elevator operation—a necessity as frequently overlooked here in Richmond as it is elsewhere in the country.

Newspaper accounts of Captain Adams'

death say he tried to enter the elevator after it had started to ascend, and was caught between the floor of the car and the top of the door to the shaft. We have no means of knowing if this is an exact description of the accident, but if it is, it indicates gross carelessness on the part of the elevator conductor. A high-powered elevator certainly should not be started before the door is closed and entrance or exit made impossible. To disregard a precaution so reasonable and obvious is merely to invite the sacrifice of life or limb. Given some failure of sight on the part of the passenger, or intending passenger, and the invitation frequently may be accepted without any imputation of contributory negligence.

It requires sometimes a tragedy such as this to draw the attention of owners of office buildings, elevator conductors and the public generally to the possibilities of carelessness. It is a high price to pay for a warning that really should not be needed.

Justification for War Measures
THE remarkable interview with Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, reported by James Creelman and printed in the Times-Dispatch yesterday morning, may be accepted as an authoritative expression of the German attitude, and so far as it goes, of German aims, ambitions and aspirations. Dr. Dernburg is one of the ablest of modern German statesmen, and he has been the chief spokesman of the Kaiser in this country.

These considerations make the more remarkable his treatment of the German attack on undefended cities along the English coast. He says:

From a military standpoint the justification of the German direct attack upon the coast of England is that it will not only demoralize the English generally, but will compel them to retain their troops for the defense of their own shores and cities and thus relieve the German army largely from the pressure of the British assistance on the Continent.

Of course, no nation can be justified in shedding blood or in destroying property, even in war, unless it should serve a distinct military purpose. The German direct naval attack on England itself will undoubtedly change the whole idea of the war.

The English must now stand on guard on their own territory; otherwise the conquest of England by Germany will be an absolute certainty.

Leaving aside any question of the correctness of this deduction, which is as insulting as it well can be to the British nation, conceived to be willing to abandon its allies in France and Belgium for the further protection of its own shores, Dr. Dernburg's omission to answer criticisms of the essential brutality of slaying women and children, even as an act of war, is remarkable. If we accept what he says at its face value, anything is justifiable in war which serves a military purpose. On that theory, it would be entirely proper for the French, should they invade Germany, to prop against the walls of ruined houses the inhabitants of captured villages and shoot them down, without consideration of age or sex. All the French would have to do would be to declare that this barbarity represented an effort to terrorize the German people and so to induce submission.

That, of course, is the method and ethics of warfare as savages conduct it. If mere military efficiency is the proper moral guide, it is easy to defend these practices. It had been thought, until last August, that civilized man universally had progressed beyond that stage.

Law Vindicated by Thaw Decision
DECISION by the Supreme Court of the United States that Harry K. Thaw must be returned to the New York Penitentiary for the Criminal Insane, at Matteawan, from which he escaped, is a vindication of the law's orderly processes, even when these processes are opposed by a combination of cunning madman, able and skillful counsel and great wealth.

Had Thaw been allowed to retain his liberty it would have indicated that the public is without adequate protection against homicidal maniacs of his type. Exaggeration of the ego is one expression of the species of insanity from which he suffers. That exaggeration would have become boundless under the influence of a decision from the highest court in the land, justifying or palliating his escape from a merciful imprisonment, that every consideration of public safety made vitally necessary. Under such circumstances another victim of his maniacal rage would have been only a question of imagined provocation, time, place and opportunity.

It is inconceivable that the Supreme Court ever would have decided that Thaw ought to retain his liberty; the apprehension felt in some quarters was that it would find no legal warrant for returning him to Matteawan. Thaw has been adjudged insane, and the theory of his counsel was that as an insane man is not capable of committing a crime, he cannot be a fugitive from justice. That sounded plausible, at least, but the Supreme Court says that in this case it is without value.

Gradually the law is being stripped of its technicalities. It is highly conceivable that if the Thaw case had been presented to the Supreme Court of fifty years ago, or even of twenty years ago, another decision might have been reached. Judges nowadays are becoming almost as impatient of quibble as is the public itself, and the law is being resolved into a real rule of reason—of reason to-day, he it said, and not of what was reason in the days of Blackstone or Coke. Coincidentally, the clamor for the recall of judges and the recall of judicial decisions is beginning to die a natural death.

A young woman who is suing a faithless swain for breach of promise says his love cooled when she sent him a pair of silk pajamas as a present. If they are of the colors sometimes displayed by the hubbards, the effect they produced is not surprising.

Canfield, once the chief gambling-house operator in this country, lost an estate valued at well over a million. Illustrating once more the value of thrift and strict attention to business.

There is some class to the Interstate Commerce Commission in the role of Santa Claus. Boosted the railroads' pay 5 per cent as a Christmas gift.

Report is denied that the Gunmen's Auto Service Company has been incorporated in New York.

Clergymen says that the Mexicans are worse off than the Belgians. Perhaps. But not for the same reason.

Well or ill, the Kaiser always has strength enough to pass out a few dozen iron crosses.

SONGS AND SAWS

Hopeless Striving.
These days the true and ardent swain
Counts o'er his cash with might and main,
Tries to decide what he shall buy
To please the eyes of the fair eye.
But, truth to tell, his chance is slight
Of pleasing his heart's delight.
In what he buys she's sure to find
Some fault of color, shape or kind
That makes his hard-bought gift appear
"Quite hopeless," and not "Awfully dear."

The Pessimist Says:
For Representatives in Congress this will be a truly joyful day. The national prohibition amendment is up, and members will have to decide between the devil of rum and the deep blue sea of the other thing.



Quite Unnecessary.
Artist—What do you think of this humorous drawing?
Friend—Fine, fine. But what is the joke?
Artist—There isn't any. You see, I plan to send it to one of the comic weeklies.

S. P. U. G.
Grubbs—Has the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving become active in your neighborhood?
Stubbs—Judging from the articles my wife has collected to send to our relatives and friends, I should say not.

True Economy.
He—That's a very attractive hat you are wearing.
She—Yes, isn't it? And, besides, it represents an experiment in economy. It is one of the last winter's hats made over, and I got the work done for very little more than it would have cost me to buy a new one.

Since Josephus Ruled.
Sailing, sailing.
O'er the bounding main.
Oh, what a thirst Jack Tar acquires
Ere he sails home again.
THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

Attention of those members of the Legislature from the western part of the State who are persistently alleging that the Norfolk district never lets go anything upon which it can establish the flimsiest claim is directed to this unanimous proposition of the editor of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: "Representative Smith, New Jersey, says the North Pole belongs to us by right of discovery and that everybody in the United States owns an interest in it. We hereby make known our willingness and readiness to transfer our interest to old Doc Cook on the same condition that he pay for the drawing and recording of the deed."

This extraordinary advice is from the Bristol Herald Courier. "To-morrow will be a very good time to do your Christmas shopping, if you are among those who have not yet attended to that little matter." It is distinctly revolutionary to acknowledge that there is a to-morrow for Christmas shopping. "To-morrow never comes."

"The Legislature is going to enact a law that will cut off every drop of beverage booze from Virginia, and Governor Henry Carter Stuart may be counted upon to enforce the law to the limit," is the opinion of the Newport News Press. While the editor mentions only liquid booze, it is presumably because he takes it for granted that no booze will be sold after the law goes into effect.

"They may call that British submarine B-11, but its work was A-1," the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch observes, appreciating that when the submarine looks in the right place for the enemy's ships it can C-1 and give it L-2.

"Congressman Gardner gave Congressman Gray to understand that he was no muckraker," says the Newport News Times-Herald, apparently desiring to make it clear that Gardner is not the man with the hoe.

Current Editorial Comment

Speeding Up Work in College
President Hyde's recent suggestion that our colleges ought to provide some limited trains for the "passenger" class of students, is a suggestion that is worth heeding. One of the great shortcomings of the American college curriculum hitherto has been that it tried to carry all "passengers" at the same rate of speed and with the same accommodations. The energetic and slothful, the keen-minded and the dull-witted among the undergraduates have been herded together in the same classrooms. The result, accordingly, has had to adapt his pace to the requirements of the thickest-headed fellow among his hearers. This pushing of intellectual democracy to an absurdity has been responsible for much of the superficiality that has marked our system of higher education. The Bowdoin educator's idea is that the college ought to hand-pick its students, and after segregating the more capable, should put them aboard the limited train. It is in small courses of instruction which proceed at a much faster pace than the ordinary. For these young men special laboratory and library facilities—the "pullman cars" of education—should be provided. Oxford and Cambridge have long had something of the sort in their systems of "pass" and "honor" courses for the former for the fellow whose only aim is to drift through the university, the latter for the young man of real scholarly interests and ambition.—Boston Herald.

The old mileage graft has been under discussion again, and the House of Representatives has decided to condemn it, but not the substance. We are told that Representative Hardy, of Texas, offered the amendment which the government must be met by some tax levy in some other direction. You are to be congratulated if you have no more valid ground of complaint than that given by the recent Federal tax. The greatest care is taken in Virginia in the selection of the men to whom convicts are given in charge, any arrangement by which these men could not enforce judicious, but rigid, discipline, would be worse than folly, and the statutes of the State give them all necessary powers, explicitly permitting the use of the lash when necessary.

Welsh Rabbit.
Please tell me whether the proper form is "rabbit" or "rerebbit" in the phrase "Welsh rabbit." Miss M.
Rabbit. Toasted cheese might be called the "national dish" of Wales, and much as sturgeon is "Albany beef" and Sherris sack used to be "Bristol milk" and watches in the early days, "Welsh rabbit" is the name of the cheese contrivance in Welsh rabbit as taking the Welsh taste the place held elsewhere by game.

Verses Wanted.
Will you publish the verses, "The Boys of the Orphan School"? MISS L.
Will some one kindly send copy?

The Bright Side of Life
Survival of the Fittest.
"I don't quite follow you when you talk of prohibition carrying out the law of the survival of the fittest," said the man who is always willing to learn.

"Of course," replied Uncle Bill Bottletop, "I'm talking about the particular kind of prohibition that have been enacted. It has encouraged a brand of surreptitious liquor that kills more off before he has had time to become a habitual drunkard."—Washington Star.

A Theory Shattered.
Mrs. Asker—Do you think the devil really has horns and hoofs?
Asker—No; I had the beef trust would have got him long ago.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Soft Coal Question.
"Is ash-burned or not?"
"I don't know; I may hear in Pittsburgh."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Economy.
"Is your wife very economical then?"
"Oh, yes, very. Why, my wife can take an old worn-out \$10 hat, spend \$15 on it and make it look almost as good as new."—Puck.

British entered Egypt, following the bombardment of Alexandria, has been a nominal rule only. The power vested in him to appoint ministers has never been exercised contrary to the judgment or wishes of the British financial adviser. Therefore Abbas Hilmi, seventh in the list of Khedives, and now an exile in Europe, openly sympathetic with Turkey in her war on Great Britain, is deprived of a shadowy sovereignty only. With the British advisers who have fomented opposition to British rule in Egypt are sufficiently strong to stir up real trouble at this time will soon be disclosed. Certainly, the elimination of the Khedive should give all the opportunity they need. If they cannot challenge British supremacy now in the interest of what is called Egyptian Nationalism, they cannot hope to do so in the future.—Brooklyn Eagle.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 22, 1864.)

Since the thundering salutes fired by Grant's artillery all around and about Petersburg on the 19th and 20th quiet has prevailed along the lines.

Later—About 9 o'clock last night the Federals commenced a prodigious cannonading to the south of Petersburg, which was kept up for fully two hours, but for what purpose nobody knows. Anyhow, no damage was done, and the Confederates did not deem a reply to the cannonading at all necessary, although they were ready, willing and anxious to engage in a duel if there had appeared to be anything worth while in it.

From the latest information from down the river, it may be fairly presumed that there will be no more exchanges of prisoners at Varina, certainly not this year.

A dispatch received from Wilmington at the War Department last night says the advance of the Federal fleet which recently left Hampton Roads arrived off the Carolina coast during the night before. It is stated that over thirty steamers are now assembling off the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and more are following.

An unofficial report received here yesterday afternoon says that General Breckenridge has defeated the Federal General Leitch in two engagements near Salisbury, and that thus far the Virginia salt works are safe.

The rural extortioners are on the Richmond Christmas market in great force. They have a plenty of country produce to sell, such as turkeys, chickens, eggs and vegetables, but their demanding prices for the same that put them beyond the reach of all buyers except the very rich.

Services of prayer in behalf of our country will be held Wednesday and Friday afternoons of this week at 4:30 o'clock in the lecture-room of the Broad Street Methodist Church, of which Rev. Dr. Duncan is the pastor. The pastor will conduct the services, although they will be held under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association.

R. D'Orsay Ogden, the one-time theatrical manager, seriously suspected of being a spy, and, as such, confined in Castle Pinckney, he has been on the sick list for some time, and is to be transferred to the Confederate prison at Salisbury, N. C. He will be doctored up in time to stand a trial, the date for which is yet to be set.

The Voice of the People

Washington-Atlanta Highway.

To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—In your issue of Sunday, December 13th, page 8, under heading of "Virginia-Carolina Highway," this statement is made: "Richmond is fortunate in being located on the Washington-Atlanta demonstration highway." This road has been greatly improved, and can be used at any season of the year without difficulty.

This is an error, so far as that section of the road between Washington and Richmond is concerned. There are certain sections of this road between Garrisonville and Stafford County, and the city of Alexandria, over which it would be almost impossible to drive a horse and buggy, to say nothing of using an automobile. The conditions are about as follows:

Contractors are now at work on the road through the County of Fairfax, and provision has been made for the whole of this mileage, excepting one mile and a fraction, which has not been provided for. In the County of Prince William there is no road leading down at the present time, and no provision has been made for the improvement of approximately nine miles of road. In Stafford County there is a line south towards Garrisonville, but funds are in hand for about five miles of this work. This will leave a gap of about four miles unprovided for.

This department is using every endeavor to interest the counties and the citizens of the counties in the improvement of these sections of the Richmond-Washington highway, but up to the present time very little has been accomplished. The greater part of this work has been largely financed by the Richmond-Washington Highway Association, through the efforts of Henry W. Anderson, its president.

G. P. COLEMAN, Commissioner.

Richmond, December 19, 1914.

Queries and Answers

War and Convicts.

With what country is the United States at war that a war tax must be levied? Is there legal warrant for whipping convicts for not working when sent on the roads? E. H. S.

With no country, but the war in Europe has vastly diminished the customs receipts of the United States by preventing imports, and the need of the government must be met by some tax levy in some other direction. You are to be congratulated if you have no more valid ground of complaint than that given by the recent Federal tax. The greatest care is taken in Virginia in the selection of the men to whom convicts are given in charge, any arrangement by which these men could not enforce judicious, but rigid, discipline, would be worse than folly, and the statutes of the State give them all necessary powers, explicitly permitting the use of the lash when necessary.

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Don't Turn Your Collar Up Too High

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

AVOIDANCE OF CHRISTMAS AILMENTS

BY IRENE WESTON.

So many people habitually feel more or less out of sorts for the few days following Christmas that Christmas ailments have come to be recognized as a necessary aftermath of the festivities.

Of course, the children will always overeat themselves; if they were not precluded to eat all sorts of indigestible things, they would feel they were being cheated out of half the joy of the Christmas season. As a matter of fact, it is not the children at all who make the bulk of sufferers from Christmas ailments. It is the grownups who, simply through carelessness neglecting to subscribe to one simple rule of health, frequently find themselves sick and less unhappy inside, and more tired and run down physically, at the end of the Christmas holidays than before them.

Of course, children do overeat themselves more often than grown people. They rejoice, however, in the possession of powers of recuperation which grownups, even in the prime of life, can only look back on with envy. Too much plain pudding, too many sausages with turnips, too many sweets, too many meals may bring on a sharp digestion upset, but in a few hours all traces of it have disappeared, and the one-time sufferer is soon eager for more of the rich foods which caused him pain.

With grown people, after Christmas ailments are not so much due to indigestion as to an utter neglect of any precautions of sanitary systems to the new conditions which reign during the Christmas holidays.

Take the case of the average father of the family who this year will leave all office work behind him for several days. How does the change affect him? In the first place, the dull monotony of his days is broken in upon and his brain can relax from the high pressure of the office. This, of course, is a change in the right direction. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy physically as well as mentally. At the same time, however, staying at home has drawbacks of its own, and it means less exercise, less activity, turn should suggest a cutting down of the food supplied to the body.

You may say that in your particular

NECESSITY FOR RURAL SANITATION

In 1909 the Commission on Country Life reported that "the farm should be the most healthful place in which to live, and there are numerous farmhouses, especially of the farm-owner, which possess most excellent modern sanitary conveniences, still it is a fact that there are also numerous other farmhouses, especially of the tenant class, and even numerous rural communities, that do not have the rudiments of sanitary arrangements." The Journal of the American Medical Association, "Health conditions in many parts of the open country, therefore, are in urgent need of betterment."

The problem of rural sanitation calls for consideration from two points of view: that of the possible danger of objectionable surroundings and unhygienic practices to the individual on the farm and his immediate neighbors; and that of the menace which insanitary farm conditions may present indirectly to urban communities. The sanitary relation of the farm to the city involves almost entirely the possibility of the spread of actual infection from country to city through milk, meat, vegetables and other farm products. A few years ago it was not uncommon for farmers to meet with a spirit of resistance any suggestion of hygienic improvements which were planned to diminish the danger of the farm as a starting point for the spread of disease. At times there has been proposed regulations, the object of which was defensible from every unbiased point of view. The milk industry covered furnished many instances in recent times of actual refusal on the part of farm communities to supply an essential food to the market under conditions that to-day are everywhere accepted as standard and necessary.

A few years ago the apparent indifference of the rural community to the needs of the urban population dependent on the farm for a healthful food supply could be excused on the basis of ignorance. To-day there is no excuse for apathy toward the teachings of modern sanitation. The campaign of education that is being waged throughout the United States by all manner of forces—municipal, State and national—by agencies connected with the Public Health Service, the Department of Agriculture, the experiment stations, the State medical boards, boards of health, civic organizations and the public press ought to win its way into every rural home that has any ties whatever with civilized communities.

The better understanding of the farmer's unavoidable responsibility toward his distant fellow-citizen has in

turn reacted to advantage in respect to his own environment. As a recent writer has expressed it: "Fortunately, the long advance in rural standards of living in recent years has come about a considerable awakening of interest among farmers and representatives of rural communities along these lines, as well as among the public as a whole. Modern methods of communication and travel have to a great extent brought the rural districts into closer relationship with the towns and cities. The farmer has learned of the improved general health and reduction in the death rate resulting from the decrease of the ravages of contagious disease, which has been brought about through the introduction of such preventive measures as a sanitary water supply, proper methods for the disposal of sewage and garbage and mosquito and fly extermination and wishes to avail himself of these benefits."

The country medical practitioner well realizes the futile idealism of much that emanates from an urban desk, so strong is the country dweller's sense of the practicality of the situation. With the experience of the campaign for improvement in rural sanitation is likely in the words of a recent writer, to do much to make the life of the farmer more profitable, more healthful, more attractive, and by so doing contribute to safeguard the food supply, and therefore the health and the efficiency of the nation.

Army's Clerical Efficiency.
(Providence Journal.)
Prof. Taft declares that the United States Army is twenty-five years behind the times in clerical methods. Counting on the lapse of time on our fingers, it would appear that the army fell back four of those twenty-five years while Prof. Taft was President.

The German Notion.
(Philadelphia North American.)
One way of putting warfare on a higher plane is to send out aviators to drop bombs on noncombatants.